



Producer Steps to CERTIFICATION

1

SUBMIT APPLICATION your Organic System Plan (OSP)

USDA Organic certification process starts with an Organic System Plan (OSP) which guides you through the required organic standards and helps you describe your organic practices. Your application includes a one-time \$350 application fee. Certification typically requires 12 weeks or longer. Need certification fast? There are often Expedited Certification Programs to consider. These programs guarantee expedited processing of your application and the following steps.

2

APPLICATION & OSP REVIEWS

Your certifying body specialist will review your application to assess whether you are ready to move forward with organic certification, and will let you know if anything is missing or if you need to provide more clarification. They will arrange your onsite inspection and determine your annual certification fee once your OSP has been reviewed and accepted.

3

INSPECTION

The purpose of the inspection is to verify that what is detailed in your OSP is happening in practice. This is where your hard work pays off. All certified operations are inspected a minimum of once per year to ensure the integrity of your production. The inspector will submit your inspection report to the certifying body's office for final review.

4

INSPECTION REPORT REVIEW

Your certifying body specialists will review the inspection report alongside your OSP for compliance and accuracy. Someone will let you know of any issues or requests for further information.

5

CERTIFICATION DECISION

Upon successful completion of the review process, you will receive a letter from the certifying body informing you of your certification status and any requirements for ongoing certification.

6

ANNUAL RENEWAL CONTRACT & INSPECTION

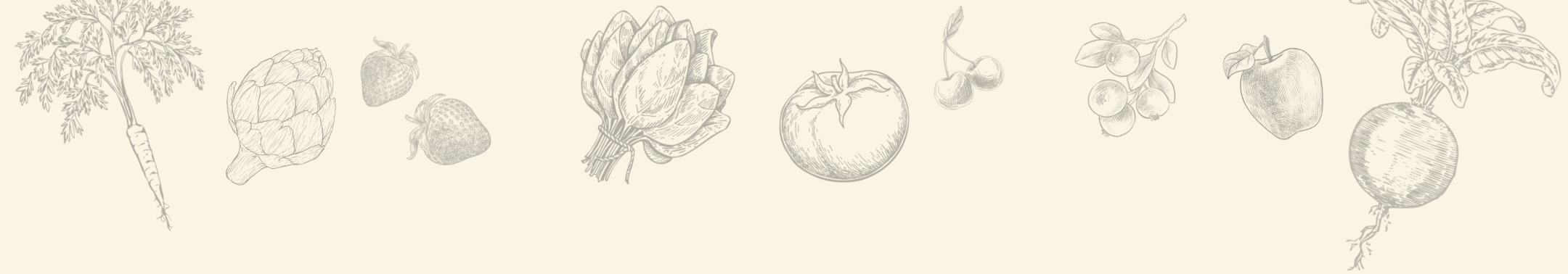
Each year your certification will be renewed and annual certification fees are due. To remain certified in good standing, every operation must be re-inspected annually and continue to update your certifying body of any OSP changes, new labels, or other changes to your operation. Your certifying body can help you maintain and expand your certification!

FOR MORE
INFORMATION!



VISIT: <https://www.ccof.org/organic-certification-services/steps-to-certification/>





WHY GET CERTIFIED ORGANIC?

Organic is good for farmers, consumers, and retailers.

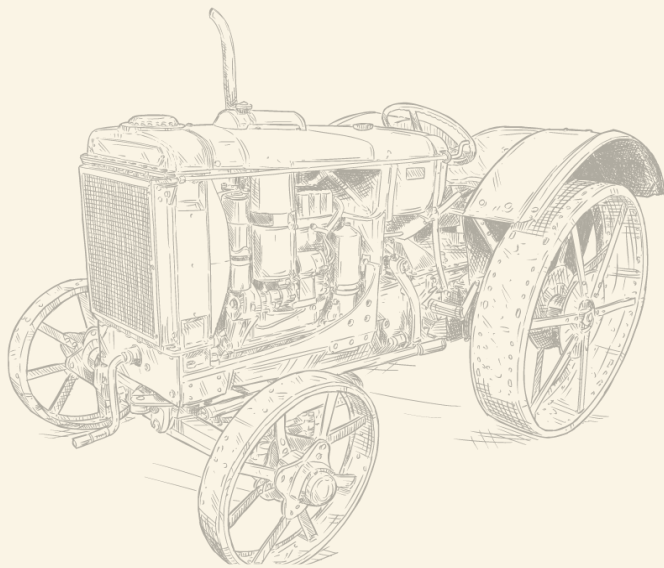
The Organic Seal is internationally recognized and gives producers the credit they deserve for contentious practices.

Becoming certified creates trust, transparency, and a healthier world.

ORGANIC CAN FEED THE WORLD.

**CERTIFICATION
PROCESS OVERVIEW**

For Producers



Funding for Organic Market Development Grant Program was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the USDA.

